



BRIEFING: BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM # 5

TO: Chairman Richard and Board Members

FROM: Jeff Morales, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: September 11, 2012

RE: Agricultural Impacts Process Presentation

Background

The Fresno-Bakersfield Outreach Team has conducted over 800 outreach events over the last five years. During these events, there has been substantial interest in the right-of-way acquisition process as it applies to agricultural land. With the assistance of the Authority, the PMT, and the Right-of-Way consultant, the project team has spent a great deal of time explaining every aspect of the acquisition process. Several thousand copies of the detailed Right-of-Way pamphlet have been provided to members of the agricultural community.

Discussion

In these events, potentially impacted members of the public continue to raise questions about acquisition scenarios. They usually touch on issues of access, remnant parcels, the viability of farming the remaining property, loss of irrigation systems, land values, timing of acquisition, impact on crops, turning space at the end of rows, and out-of-direction travel. Most property owners have difficulty visualizing the impacts of this process on farming operations without typical examples. Of course, all presentations emphasize the point that each land acquisition case is a unique negotiation.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Authority Board promote understanding of the land acquisition process by encouraging the use of typical scenarios that are commonly encountered along the alignment alternatives. Examples of such typical scenarios will be presented.